



Texas Department of State
Health Services

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DIVISION FOR REGULATORY SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER SAFETY SECTION

POLICY, STANDARDS, AND QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT

PUBLIC SANITATION AND RETAIL FOOD SAFETY GROUP

SUBJECT: MOBILE FOOD UNIT PUSH CART GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

This document is to be **used in addition to the Mobile Food Unit Checklist (EH-22)** as a guide to determine if a pushcart type mobile food unit meets requirements for approval.

All push carts with open handling of food must have a permitted, inspected and approved central preparation facility.

Operational Overview:

- Due to a lack of full enclosure for cooking and food preparation, mobile food unit pushcart vendors may only offer the following foods: Non-TCS foods and drinks, commercially packaged pre-cooked foods such as hot dogs, sausages, hamburgers or other foods specifically approved by the Regulatory Authority.
- Food handling must be limited to assembly of product, no slicing, dicing, or food preparation on the push cart.
- Pushcart operators must provide to the Regulatory Authority, a copy of the Central preparation facility permit and most recent inspection report.
- All food items held on the pushcart must be held in closed containers. All food products must maintain proper temperatures.

Physical Facility:

- Pushcart must be on wheels, non-motorized, and readily moveable by one individual.
- Pushcart shall be provided with overhead protection that encompasses the entire unit and must be attached to the pushcart.
- All equipment must be permanently attached to the pushcart.

- The pushcart and all attached equipment must be constructed of corrosion-resistant, durable materials that are smooth, non-absorbent and easily cleanable.
- All reheating, cold holding and hot holding equipment must be provided with a cover, lid or tight fitting enclosure.
- Storage areas on the pushcart for single-service items, utensils, food or other items must be completely enclosed.
- If the name of the establishment is on the pushcart, it must be in 3 inch lettering.